OH, *THAT* ROCHESTER

A very broad look at Rochester,
geographically and philatelically.

By Tom Fortunato
for the Rochester Philatelic Association, January, 2018

We all know about the city we live in, Rochester, NY.

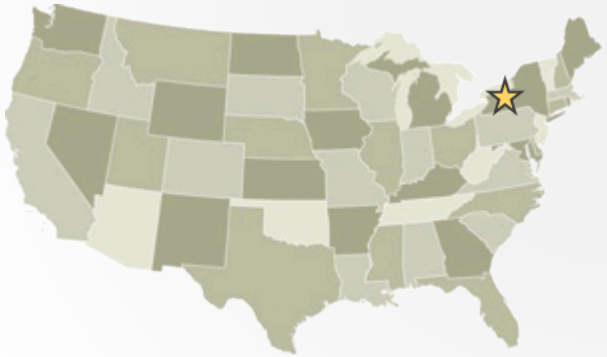
But what do you know about other places named Rochester?

Here's a brief tour of "other" Rochester villages, towns and cities near and far that you may (or may not) have heard of before.

The derivation of the name "Rochester" refers to a "fortified bridge." The City of Rochester in Great Britain was called "Hrofoecoestra" as found in ***The Veneable Bede*** (circa 730 AD). It is a combination of the old English word "hrof" meaning roof or bridge, and the Latin word "castra" meaning a fortified military camp.

A purchase a few years ago sparked a thought. Just how many "Rochesters" are/were there? And how many of them have philatelic connections? Here's a place to start: https://roadsidethoughts.com/la/rochester-xx-jackson-tidbits.htm

ROCHESTER, NY (Monroe County)



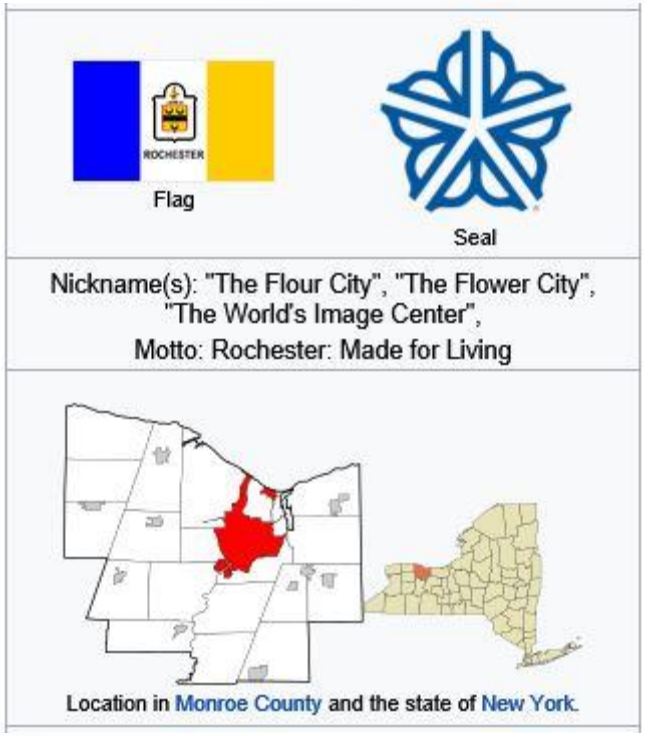
Founded in 1788.

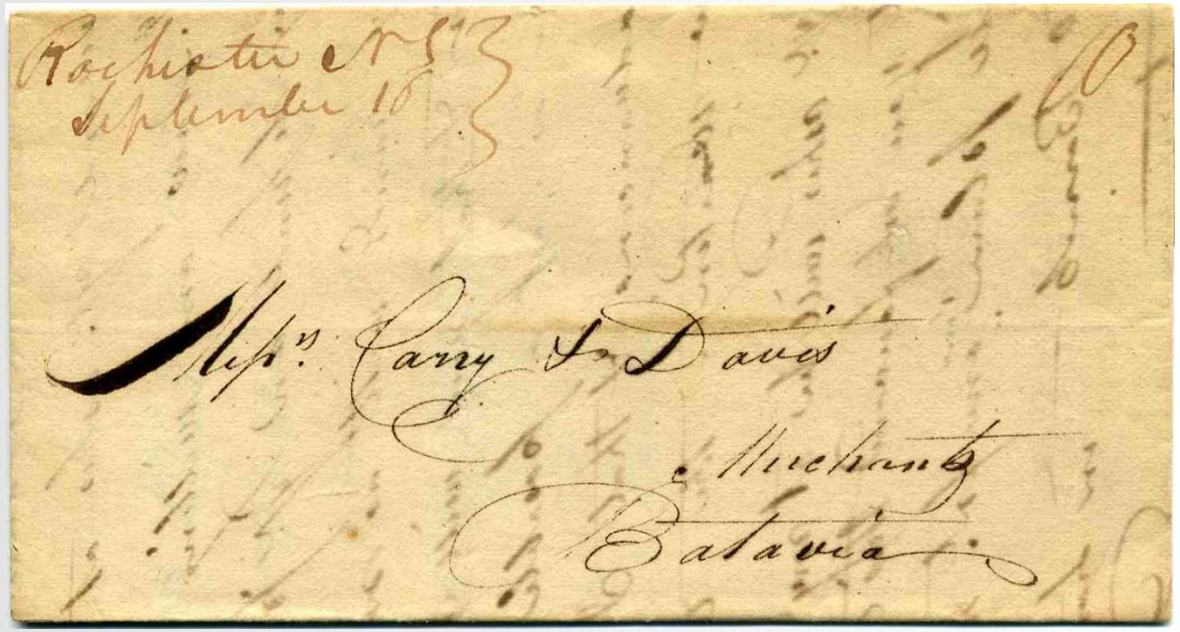
Population: 210,000

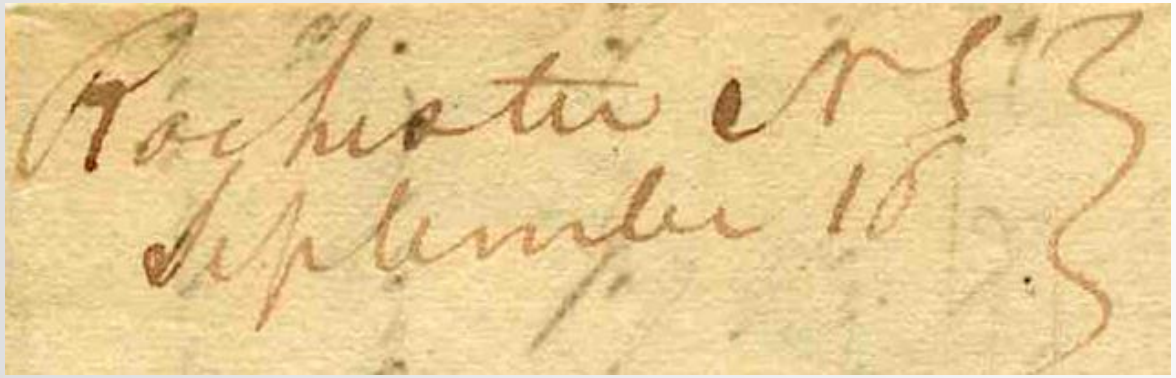
Post Office Opened: 1812-1821 (Genesee County),1821-Date (Monroe County)

Rochester was first known as "the Young Lion of the West", and then as the "Flour City". By 1838, Rochester was the largest flour-producing city in the United States. Having doubled its population in only 10 years, Rochester became America's first "boomtown".

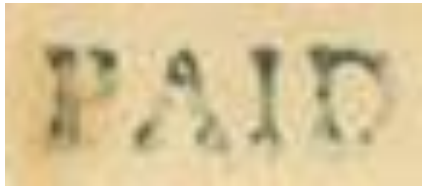
https://www.cityofrochester.gov







1814 manuscript marking

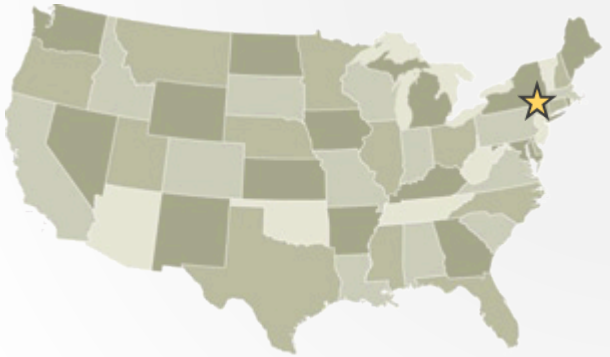


1816 green mark with Paid

1828 cover with paid marking

1870s cork cancel

ROCHESTER, NY (Ulster County)



Founded in 1703.

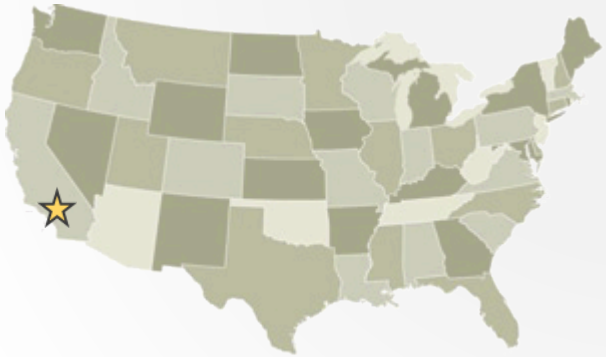
Population: 7,238

Post Office Opened: 1820-1826

Mombaccus was the Dutch name for the area that became the Town of Rochester. It was first settled in 1672. The name Rochester began with the issuance of a land patent in 1703. It became a Town in 1788 and the formal establishment of the Town of Rochester occurred in 1803.

http://townofrochester.ny.gov

ROCHESTER, CA (San Bernardino County)



Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1890-1911

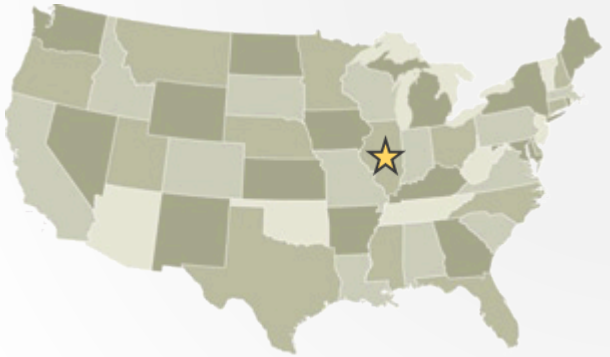
Located within the City of Rancho Cucamonga.

https://california.hometownlocator.com/ca/san-bernardino/rochester.cfm

CA

September 18, 1909

ROCHESTER, IL (Sangamon County)



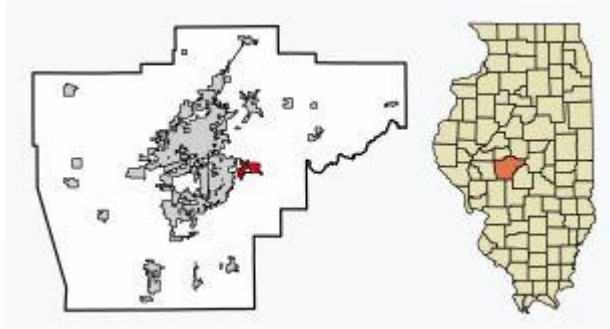
Founded in 1819.

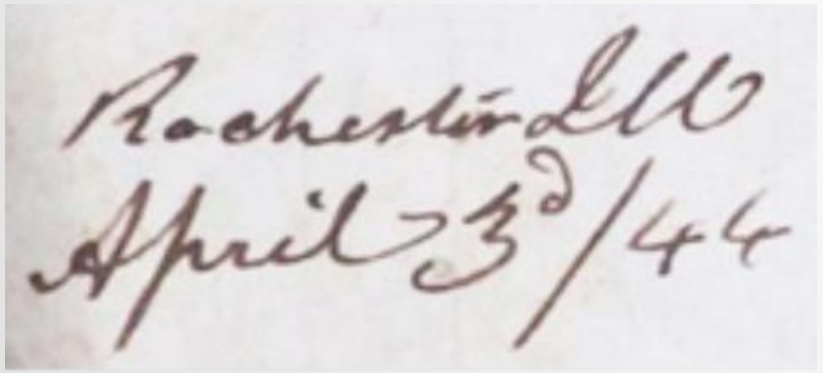
Population: 2,762

Post Office Opened: 1834-Date

Rochester is the southeastern end of the Lost Bridge Trail, a 5.0-mile (8.0 km) trail built by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) atop an abandoned rail bed formerly used by the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) railroad.

http://rochesteril.org





1844 manuscript marking

IL

1879

1911 RFD

ROCHESTER, IN (Fulton County)

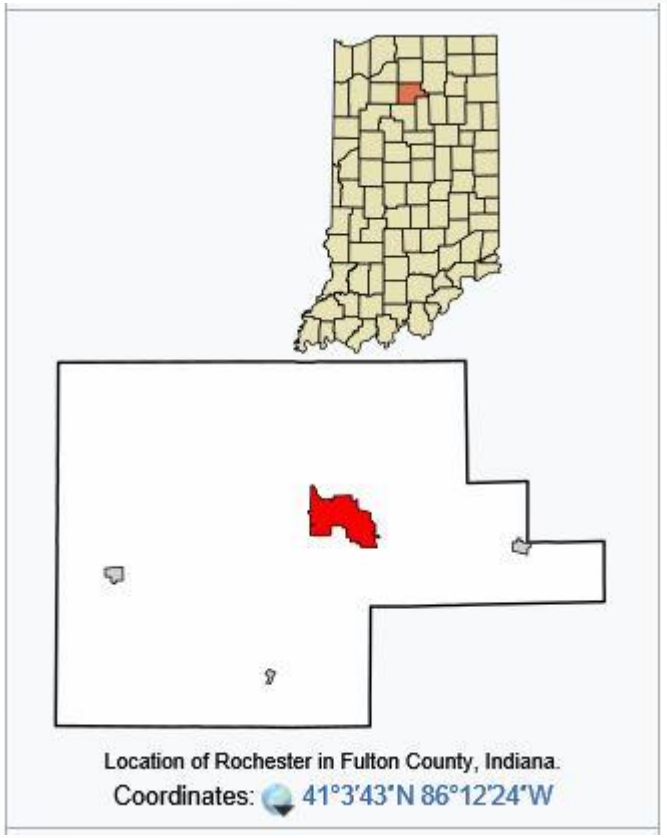
Founded in 1835.

Population: 6,021

Post Office Opened: 1836-Date

Rochester was laid out in 1835. The founder Alexander Chamberlain named it for his former hometown of Rochester, New York. Known as "The Round Barn Capital of the World", Rochester is the county seat of Fulton County.

http://www.rochester.in.us



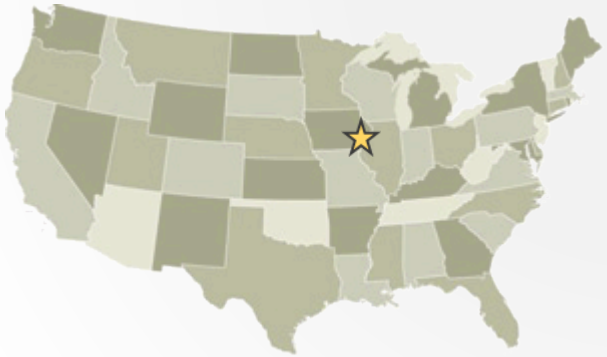
IN

1898

1859

1909

ROCHESTER, IA (Cedar County)



Founded in 1836.

Population: 133

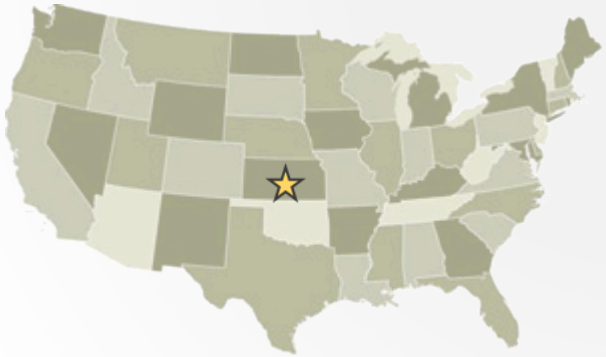
Post Office Opened: 1854-1903

Rochester was named after Rochester, New York, known for its flour mills, due to its location on the Cedar River.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Iowa

http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/Iowa Outdoors Magazine/Nature/files/HallowedPrairie.pdf

ROCHESTER, KS (Neosho and Kingman County)



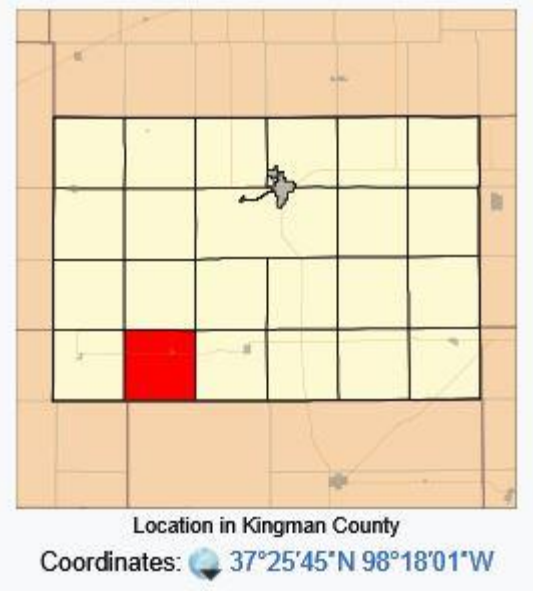
Founded in mid-1880s.

Population: 162

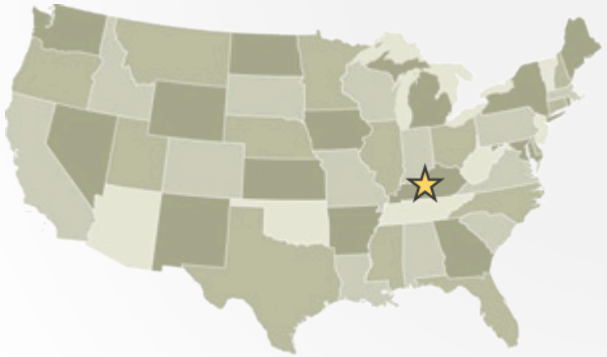
Post Office Opened: 1869/1872 (Neo.), 1879-1899 (Kingman)

The town moved in 1887 and renamed New Rochester, when there were 28 other places named Rochester in the country. Later renamed Zenda after the novel THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester_Township,_Kingman_County,_Kansas



ROCHESTER, KY (Butler County)

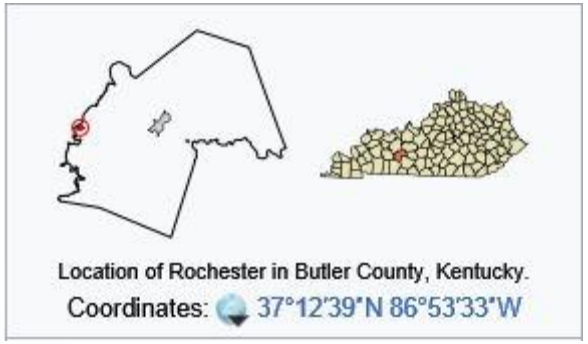


Founded in 1839.

Population: 154

Post Office Opened: 1843-Date

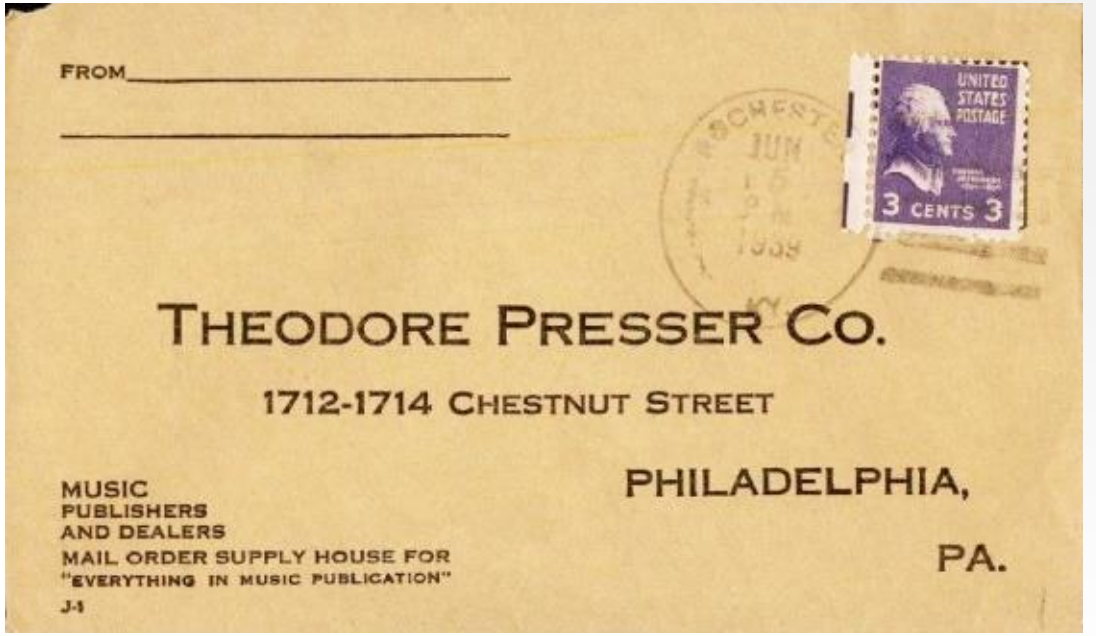
Rochester was named to honor the family of John Rochester.



http://www.kyatlas.com/ky-rochester.html

KY

Return to W C Hunk M D
ROCHESTER, Butler Co., Kentucky,
If not delivered within 10 days.
ROCHFSTER
AUG
1
KY.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1492
1892
POSTAGE TWO CENTS
The U S Building Loan
Association
Louisville
Ky


FROM
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3
THEODORE PRESSER CO.
1712-1714 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA,
PA.
MUSIC
PUBLISHERS
AND DEALERS
MAIL ORDER SUPPLY HOUSE FOR
"EVERYTHING IN MUSIC PUBLICATION"
J-1

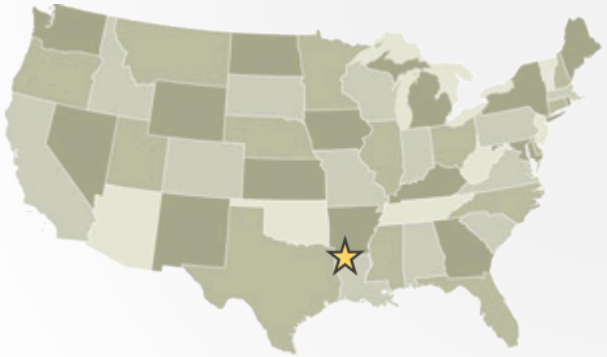
ROCHFSTER
AUG
1
KY.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1492
1892
POSTAGE TWO CENTS

1892

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

1939

ROCHESTER, LA (Jackson Parish)



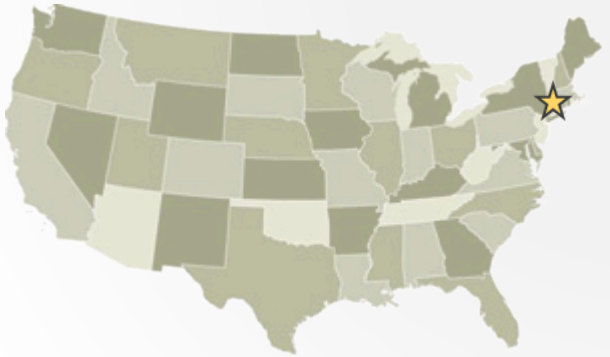
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1850/1910

No data found.

ROCHESTER, MA (Plymouth County)



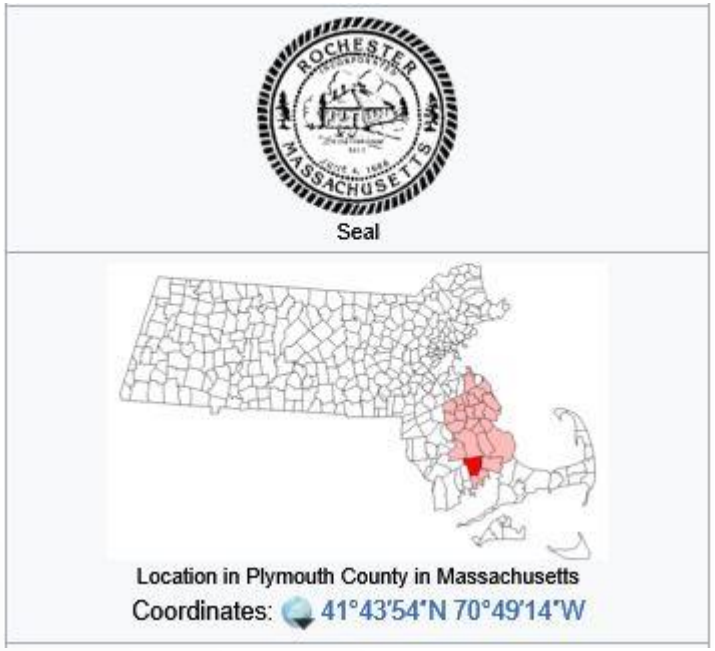
Founded in 1679.

Population: 5,232

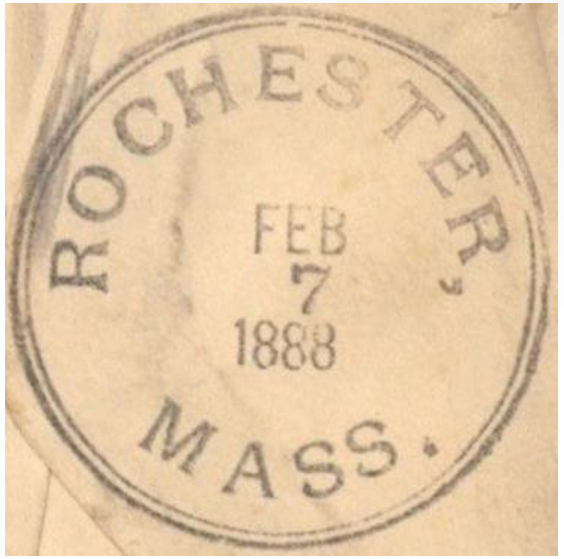
Post Office Opened: 1800-1920,
1928-Date

The town was officially incorporated on June 4, 1686 as Rochester, and was renamed for Rochester, England, from which early settlers to the town came. The town originally thrived with the early shipbuilding and whaling trade in Mattapoisett Harbor.

https://www.townofrochestermass.com



1869



1888 backstamp

ROCHESTER, MI (Oakland County)

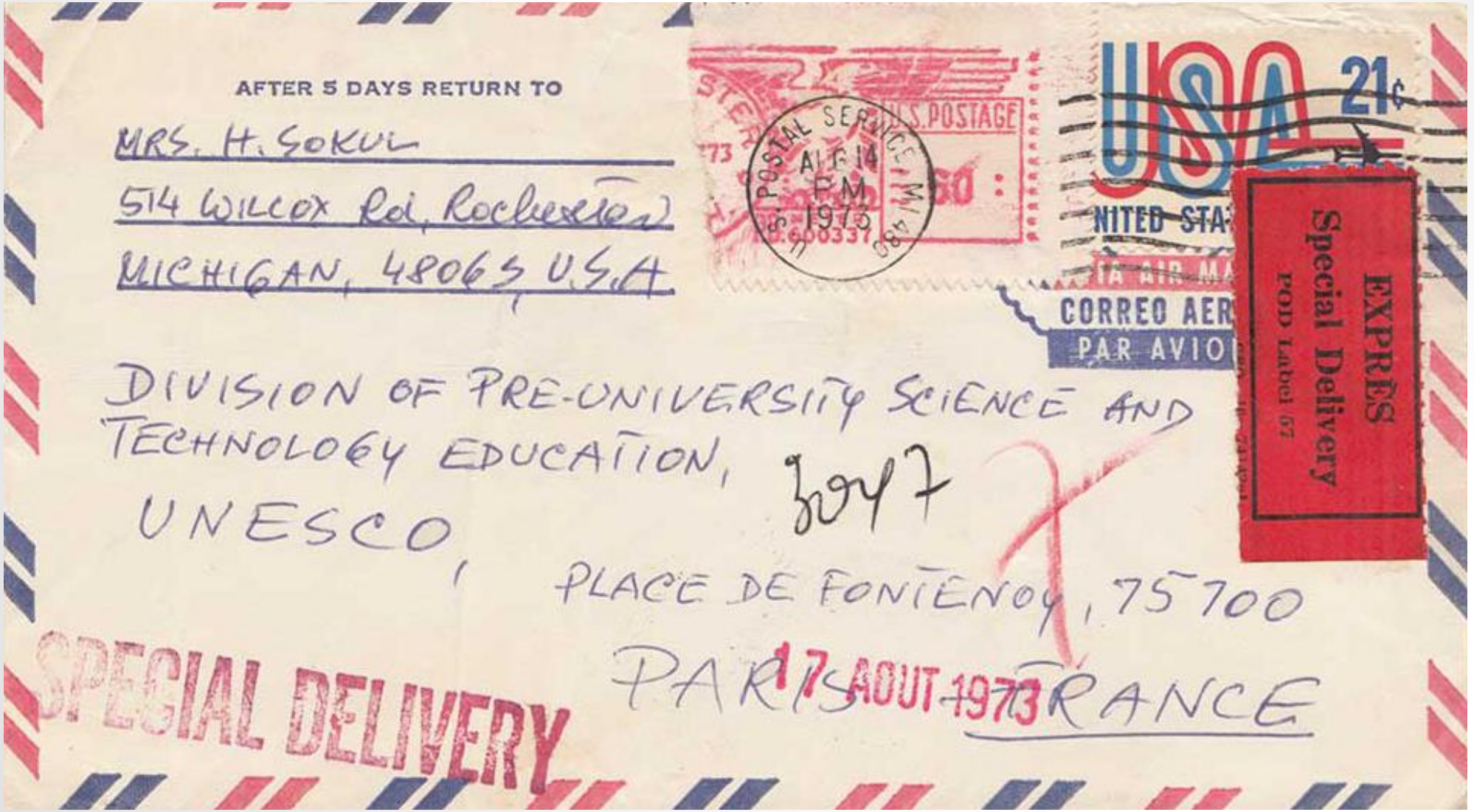
Founded on April 12, 1869.

Population: 13,017

Post Office Opened: 1827-Date

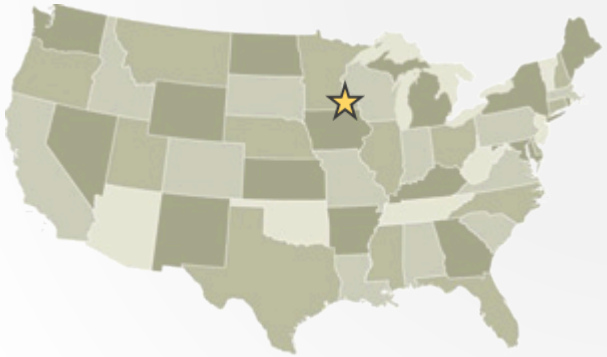
The first settlers in what would become Rochester, the Graham family, built a log cabin in 1817. The city was named for Rochester, New York, just like Rochester, Minnesota, as many early settlers to the area were formerly from the state of New York.

http://www.ci.rochester.mi.us/


AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
MRS. H. GOKUL
514 WILCOX Rd, Rochester
MICHIGAN, 48063, U.S.A
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE MI 48
AUG 14
PM
1973
U.S. POSTAGE
USA 21¢
CORREO AER
PAR AVIO
EXPRES
Special Delivery
POD Label 57
DIVISION OF PRE-UNIVERSITY SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION,
UNESCO,
PLACE DE FONTENOY, 75700
PARIS
17 AOUT 1973
FRANCE
SPECIAL DELIVERY

1973

ROCHESTER, MN (Olmstead County)



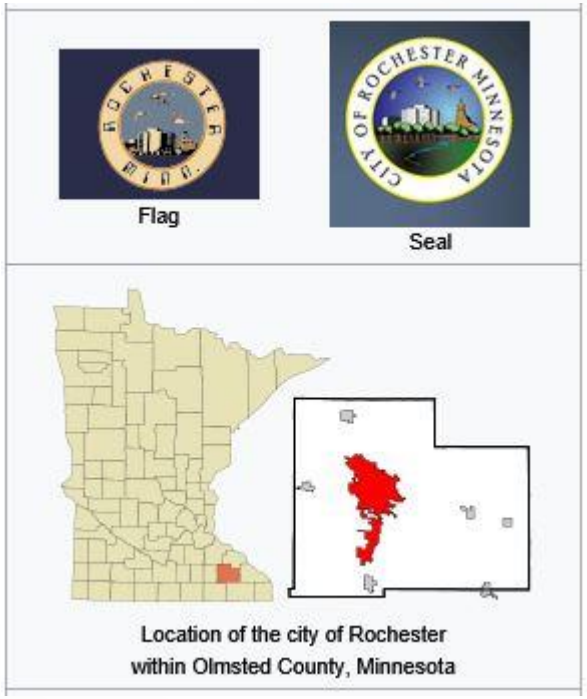
Founded in 1854.

Population: 114,011

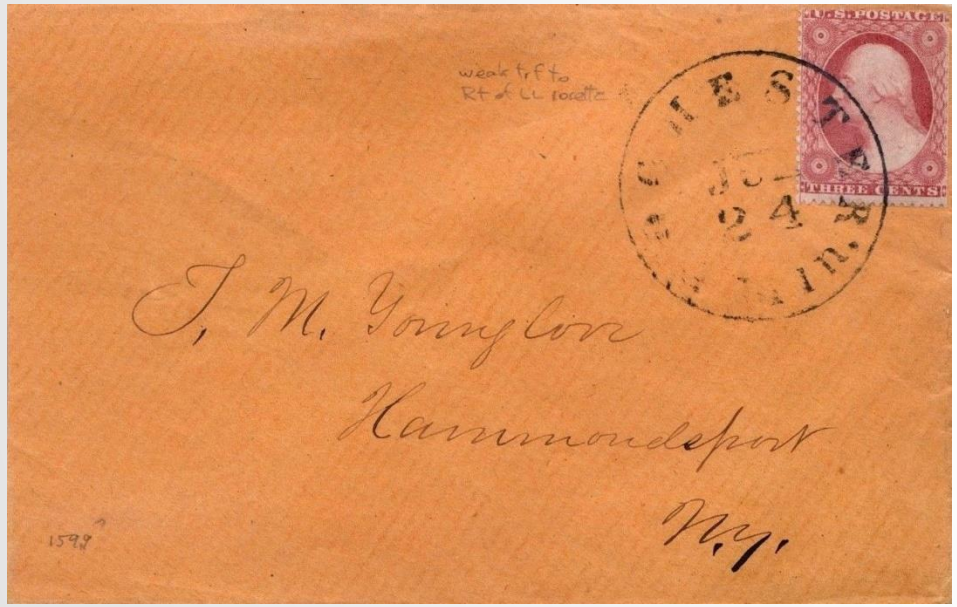
Post Office Opened: 1955-Date

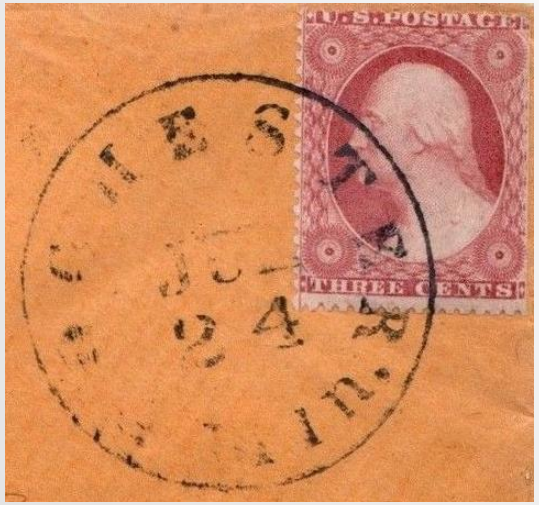
The area initially developed as a stagecoach stop between Saint Paul and Dubuque, Iowa. The community was named after Rochester, New York by emigrants from that area. It is the home of the Mayo Clinic and one of IBM's largest facilities.

http://www.rochestermn.gov



MN

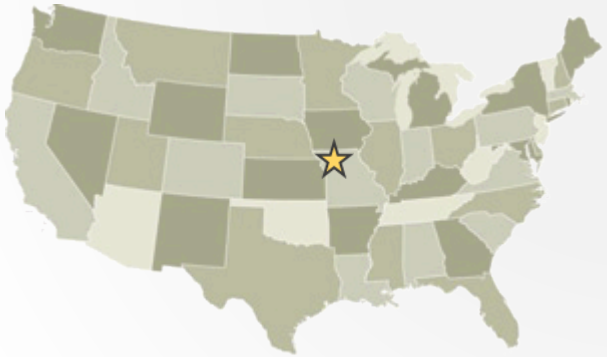




1850s

1879

ROCHESTER, MO (Andrew County)

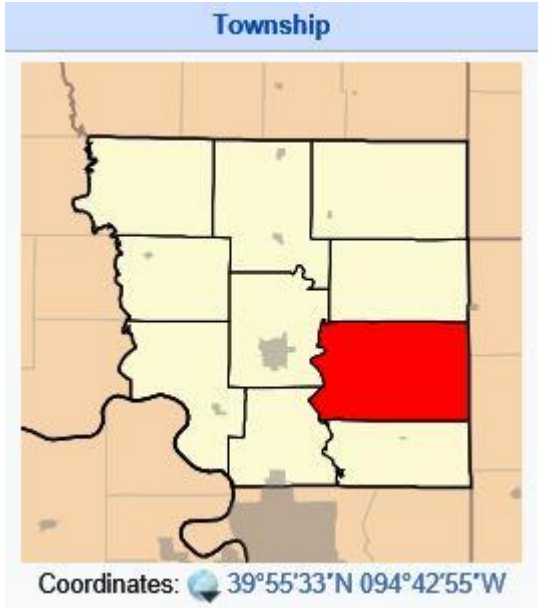


Founded in 1841.

Population: 1,182

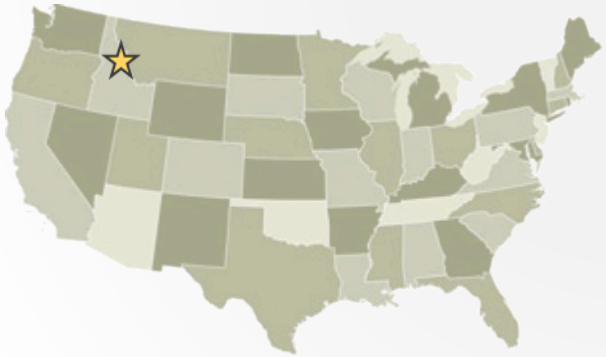
Post Office Opened: 1844-1935

Among the principal business transacted at the May term of Andrew County Court, 1841, was the modifying of the boundaries of Jasper and Platte Townships, creating Rochester Township.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester_Township,_Andrew_County,_Missouri

ROCHESTER, MT (Madison County)



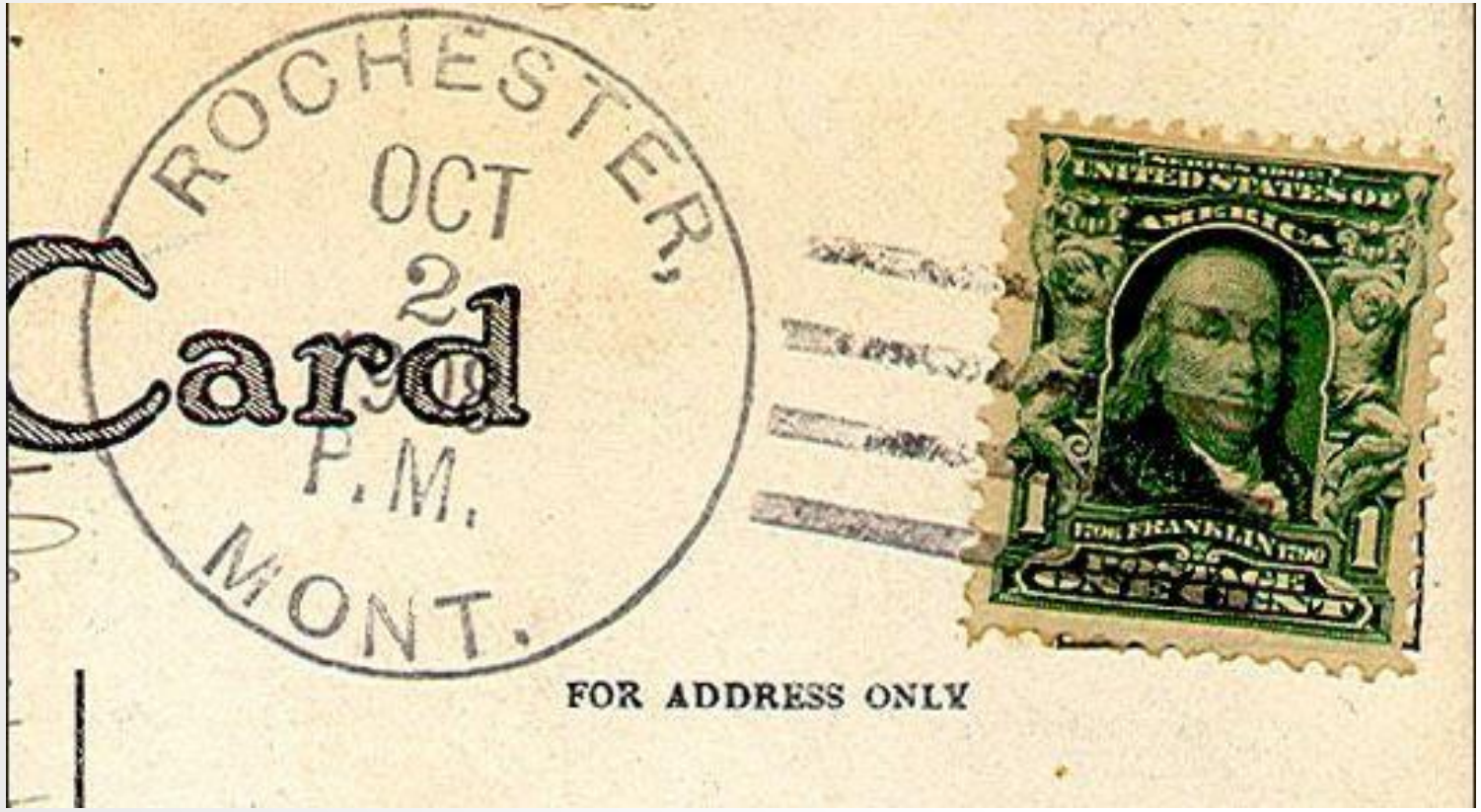
Founded in 1869.

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1868-1876, 1888-1889, and 1892-1918

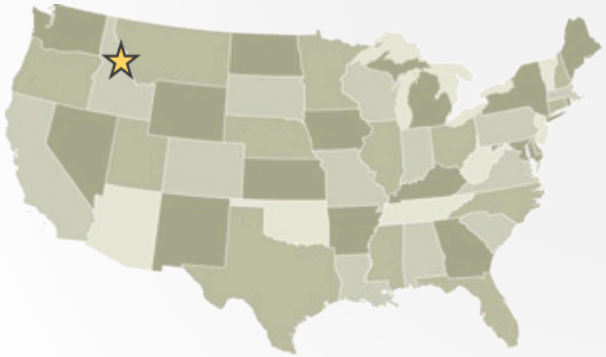
The Watseca mine operated from 1868 until the 1980s. A few stone buildings, a wooden head frame, a modern gold mill (now abandoned) and the old cemetery remain.

http://www.ghosttowngallery.com/htme/rochester.htm


ROCHESTER,
OCT
2
Card
P.M.
MONT.
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
FOR ADDRESS ONLY

1908

ROCHESTER, MT (Powell County)



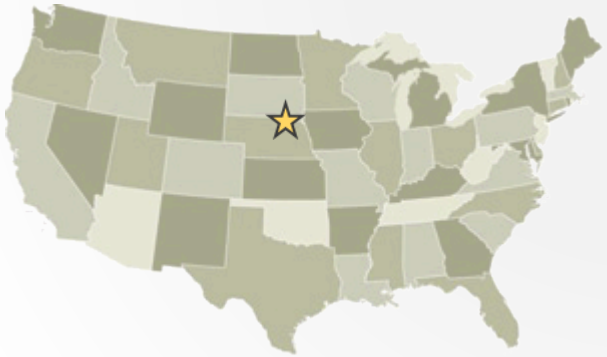
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1890-1892

No data found.

ROCHESTER, NE (Boyd County)

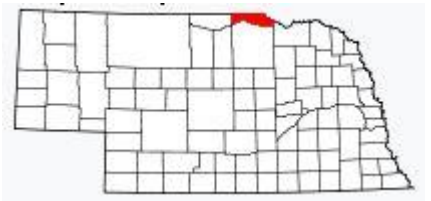


Founded in ?

Population: 0

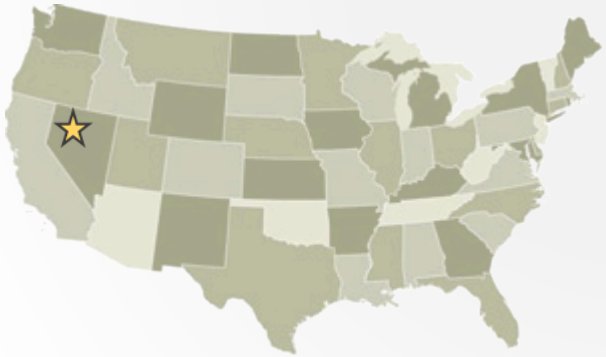
Post Office Opened: 1895-1898

No data found.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boyd_County,_Nebraska

ROCHESTER, NV (Pershing County)



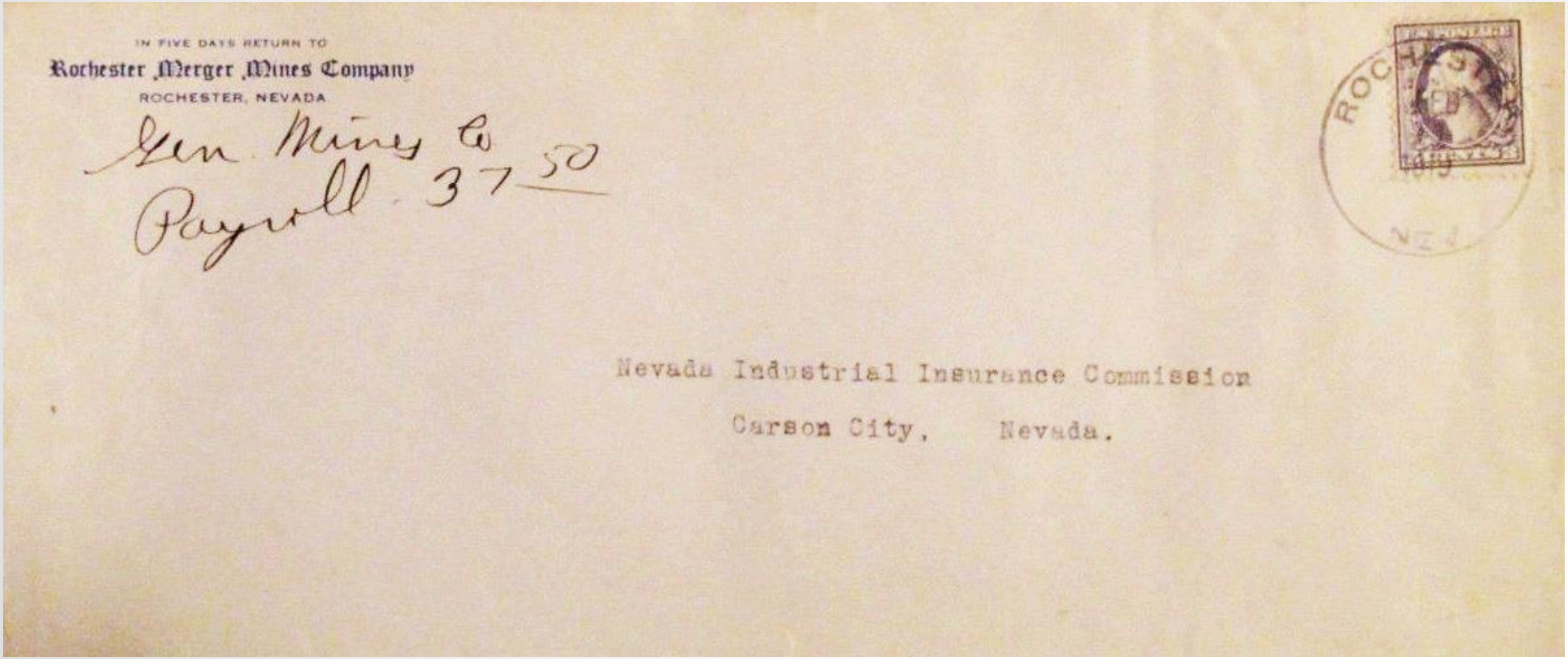
Founded in 1860s.

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1913-1926

Rochester is the collective name for three different sites: Rochester Heights, Upper Rochester and Lower Rochester, spread out along a 3 mile stretch of Rochester Canyon. Gold was discovered in the 1860s by immigrants from Rochester, New York. Now a ghost town.

http://silverstateghosttowns.com/rochester.html



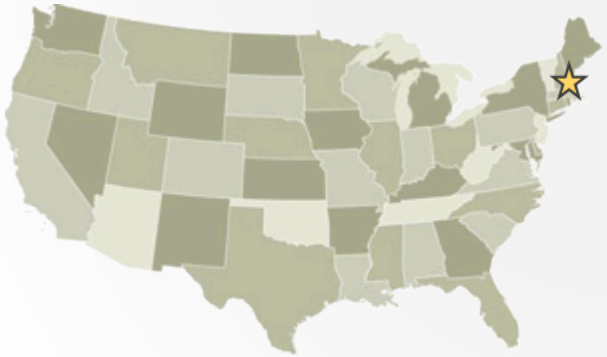
IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
Rochester Merger Mines Company
ROCHESTER, NEVADA

Gen Mines Co
Payroll 37 50

Nevada Industrial Insurance Commission
Carson City, Nevada.

1919

ROCHESTER, NH (Strafford County)

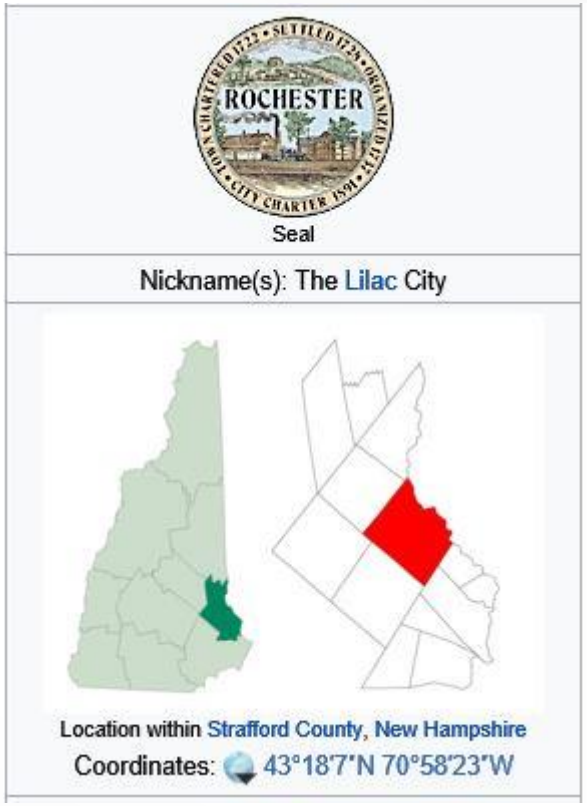


Founded in 1722.

Population: 30,345

Post Office Opened: March 26, 1812-Date

The town was one of four granted by Colonial Governor Samuel Shute of Massachusetts and New Hampshire during his brief term. It was named for his close friend, Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester and brother-in-law to King James II.



https://www.rochesternh.net

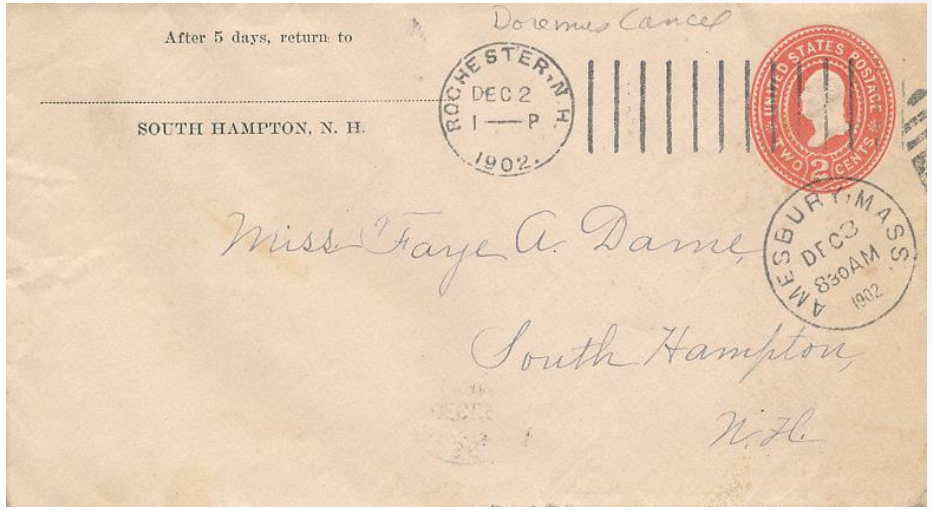
NH

1814 manuscript

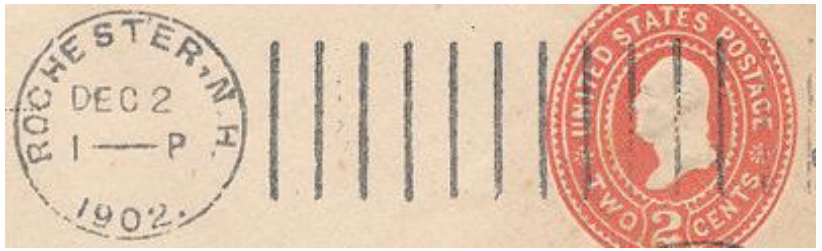
1839 as receiving mark

NH

1882

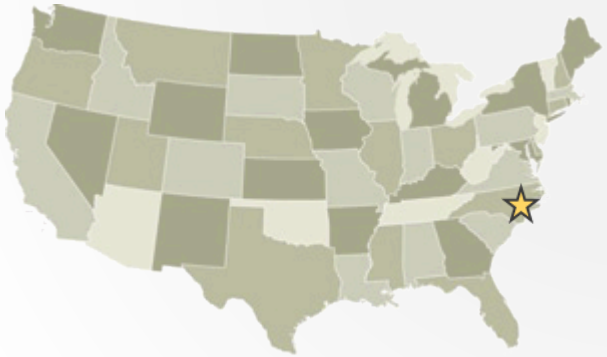


1902 Doremus cancel



1992

ROCHESTER, NC (Robeson County)



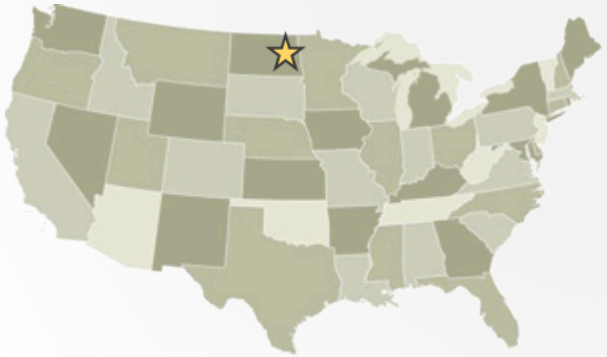
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1888-1904

No data found.

ROCHESTER, ND (Cass County)



Founded in ?

Population: 0

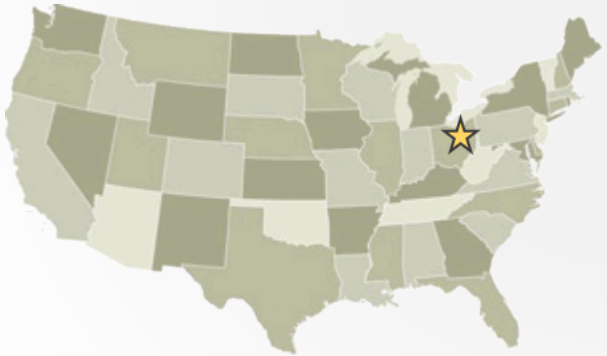
Post Office Opened: 1882-1884

No data found.

http://www.city-data.com/township/Rochester-Cass-ND.html

http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/55429/Rochester+Township/Cass+County+1906/North+Dakota/

ROCHESTER, OH (Lorain County)



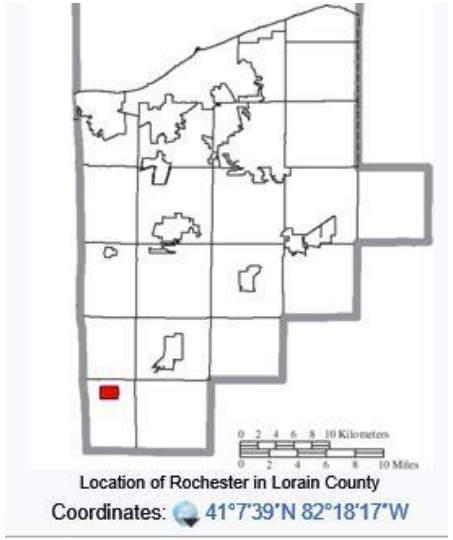
Founded in 1827.

Population: 181

Post Office Opened: 1883-1966

Rochester Township was the last settled of any of the townships now comprised within the boundary lines of Lorain County in 1827. The village derives its name from Rochester, New York, the native home of a land agent.

http://www.rochesterohio.com

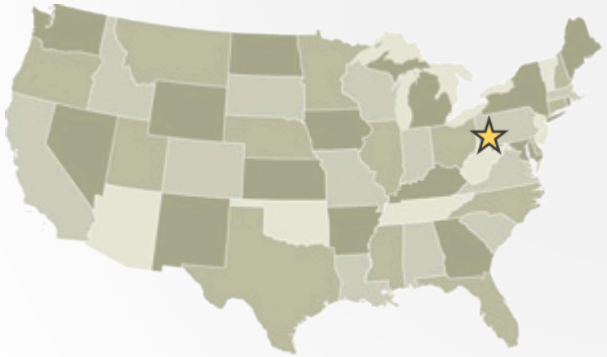


POST CARD
FOR CORRESPONDENCE.
FOR ADDRESS ONLY.
ROCHESTER
DEC
5
1910
OHIO
U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT
Printed in Germany
With Love
&
Best Wishes
Myra Reta Richards
Miss Evah Choate
Rochester
O.
SER. 300.

1910

ROCHESTER
DEC
5
1910
OHIO
U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT

ROCHESTER, PA (Beaver County)



Founded in 1799.

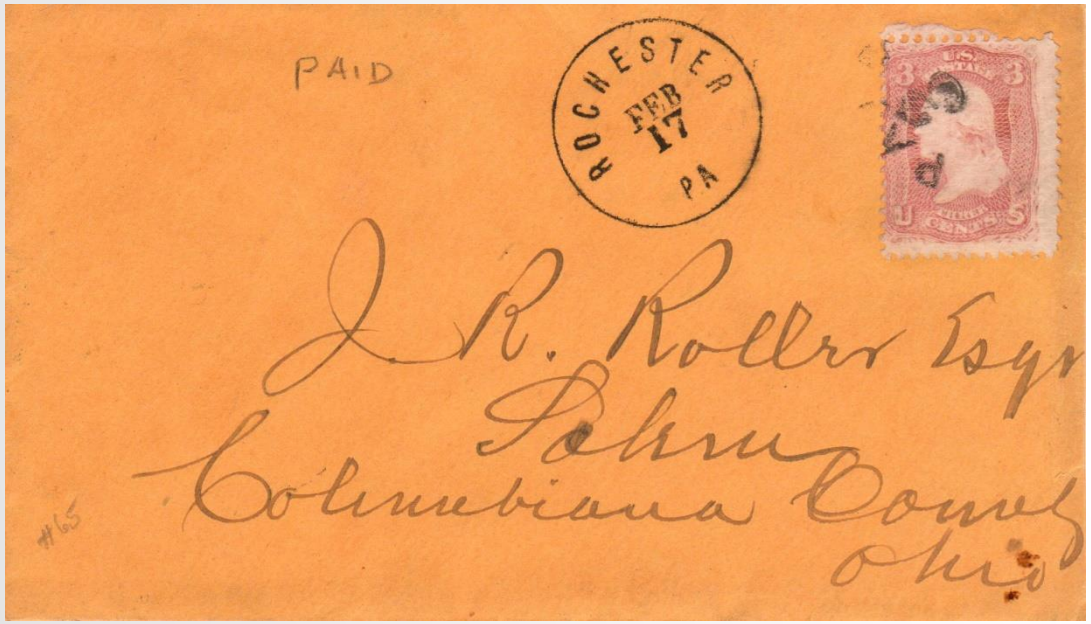
Population: 3,534

Post Office Opened: 1849-Date

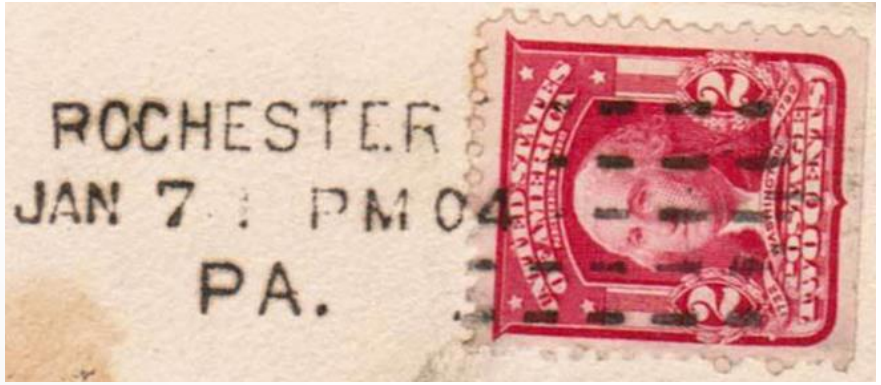
The borough adopted its name in 1834 when a local businessman decided to christen his home with the name Rochester so he could have a unique name to stamp his goods. Scenes in the 1986 movie Gung Ho, the 1996 movie Kingpin and the 2000 movie "Wonder Boys" were shot in Rochester.

https://www.rochestertwp.org

PA



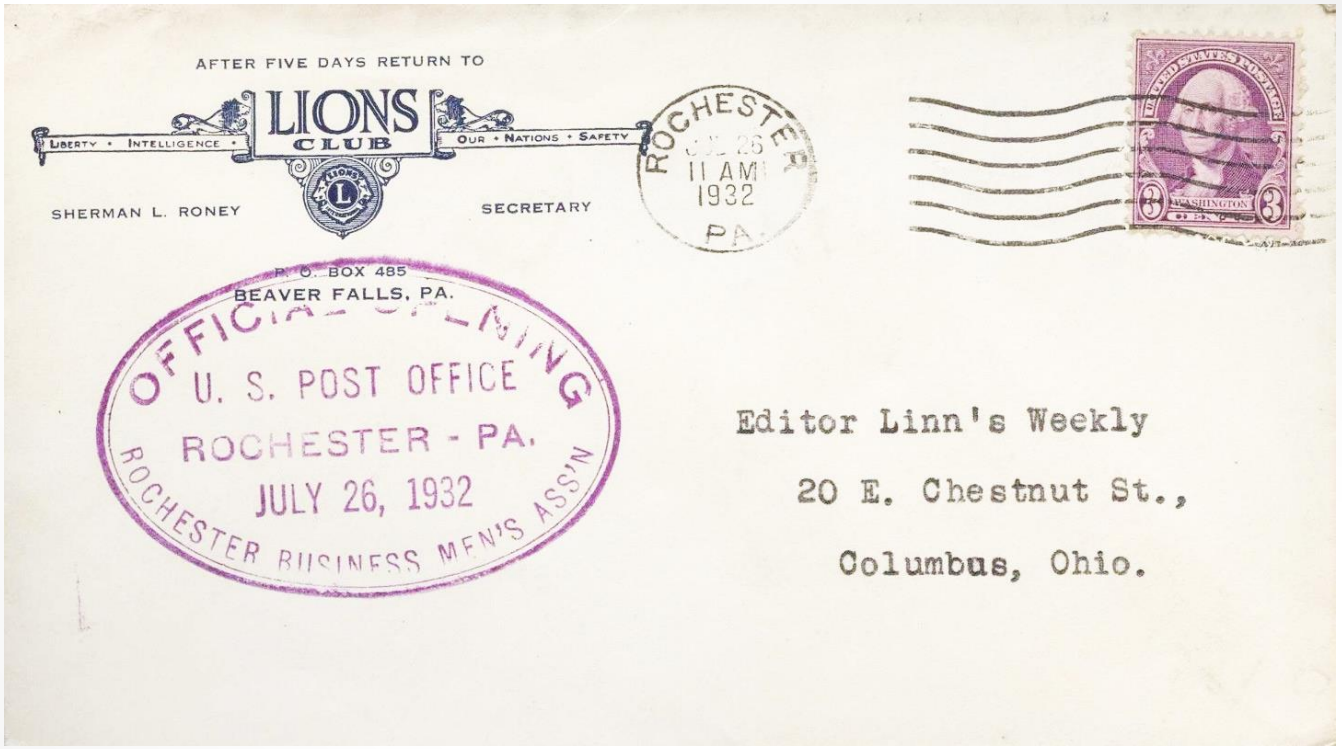
1860s



1904 Perfection cancel

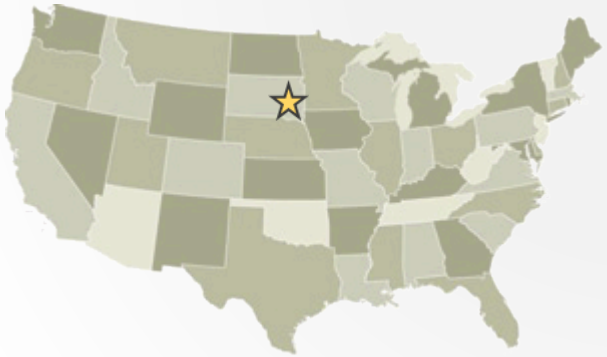
PA

1932 on International Reply Coupon



1932

ROCHESTER, SD (McCook County)



Founded in ?

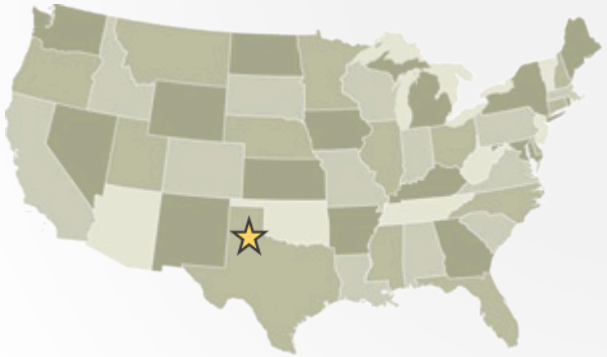
Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1874-1879

No data found.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCook_County,_South_Dakota

ROCHESTER, TX (Haskell County)

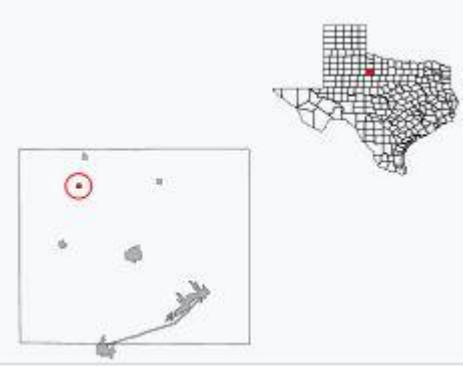


Founded in 1906.

Population: 324

Post Office Opened: 1906-Date

Rochester was founded by A. B. Carothers in 1906 as the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway was built in the area. It takes its name from Rochester, New York.

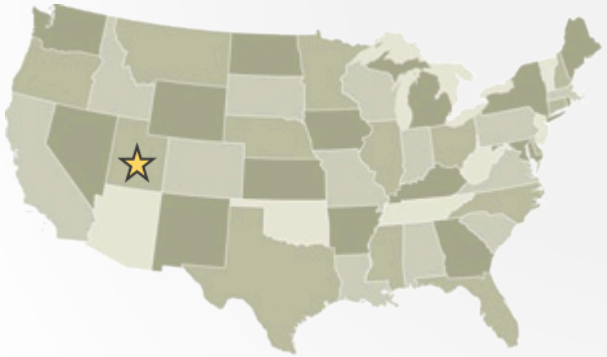


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Texas

ROCHESTER
APR
6
1949
TEX.
ROCHESTER
APR 6
6 PM
1949
TEX.
UNITED STATES
GOLD
STAR
MOTHERS
3¢ POSTAGE 3¢

1949

ROCHESTER, UT (Emery County)



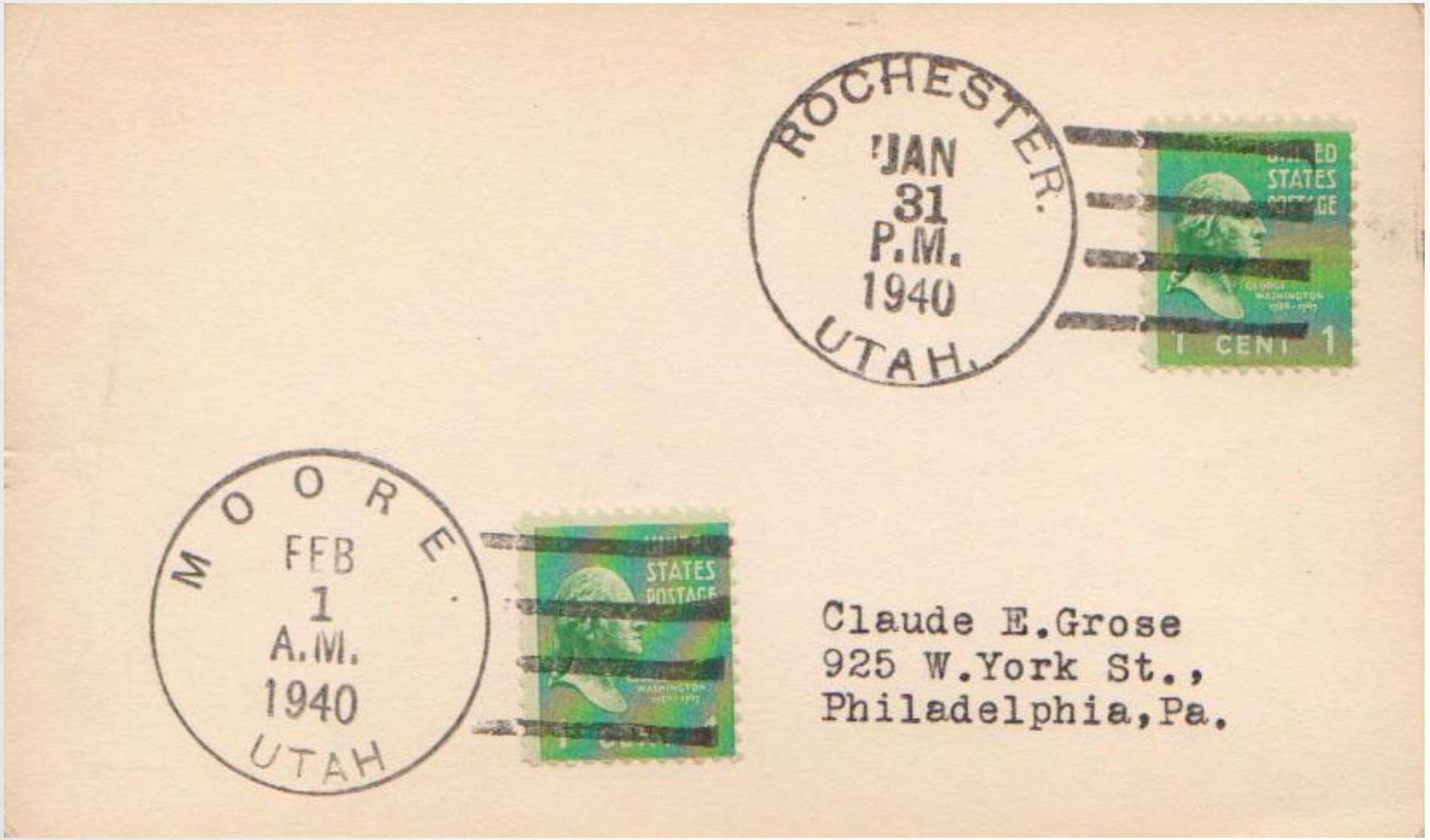
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1920-1940

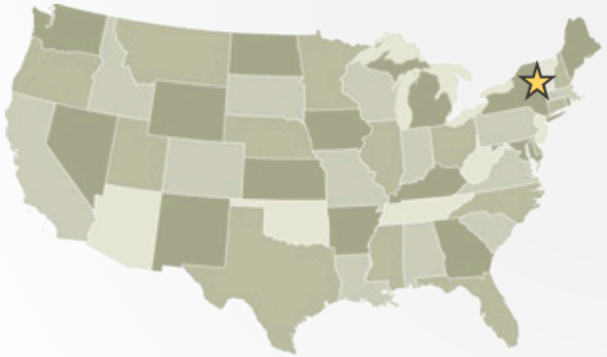
No data found.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emery_County,_Utah


ROCHESTER.
JAN
31
P.M.
1940
UTAH.
MOORE.
FEB
1
A.M.
1940
UTAH
Claude E.Grose
925 W.York St.,
Philadelphia,Pa.

1940

ROCHESTER, VT (Windsor County)



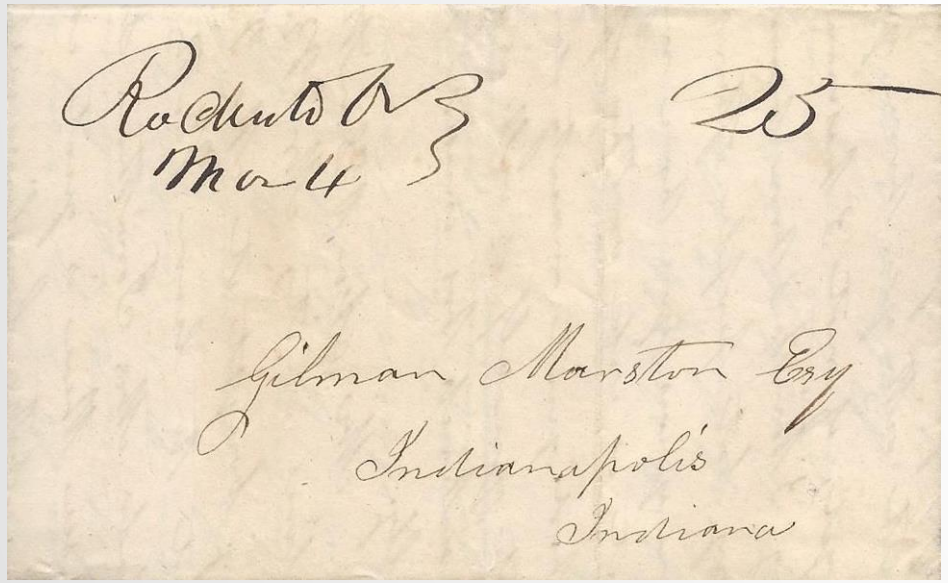
Founded in 1781.

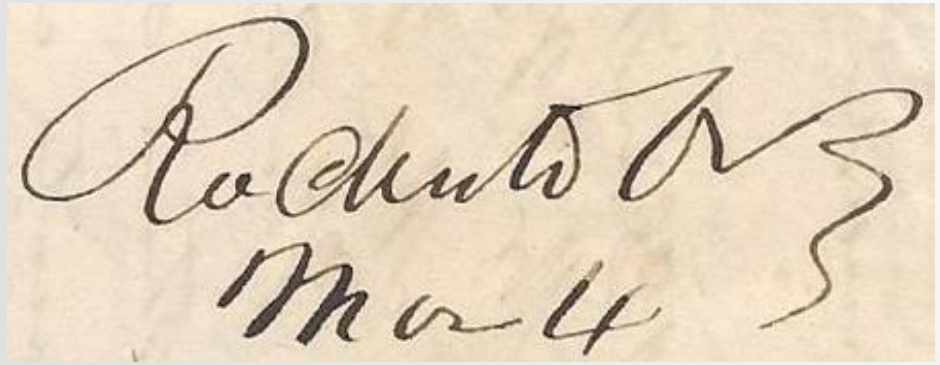
Population: 1,139

Post Office Opened: 1816-Date

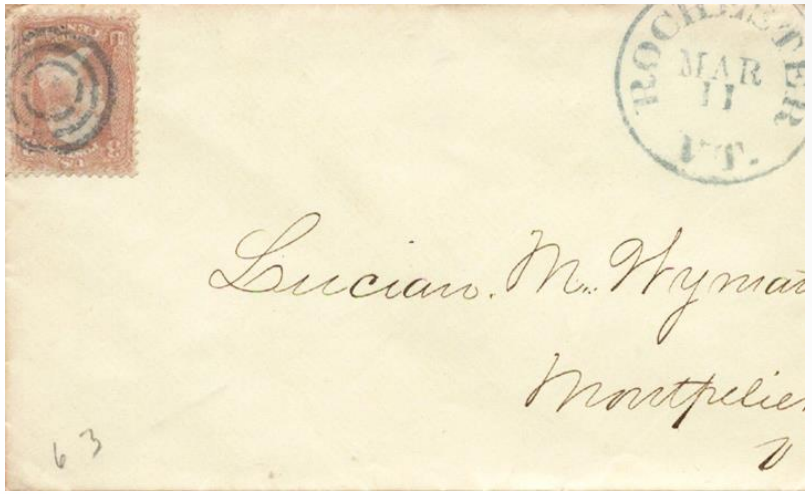
Rochester was granted in 1780, chartered in 1781 to Dudley Chase, Asa Whitcomb and 63 others, then organized in 1788. It was first settled in the winter of 1781-1782 by David Currier and his family.

http://rochestervermont.org

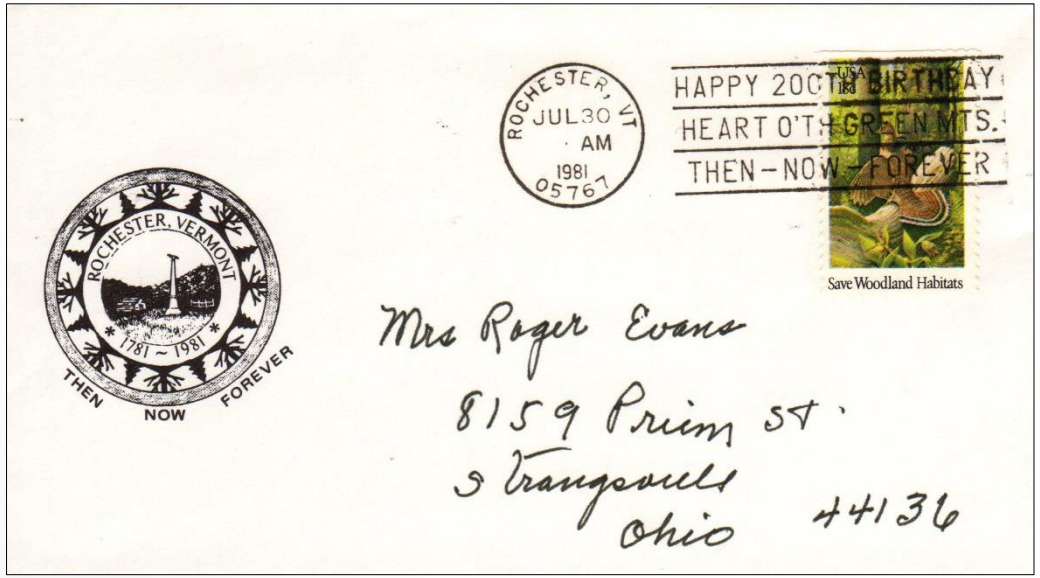




1839 manuscript

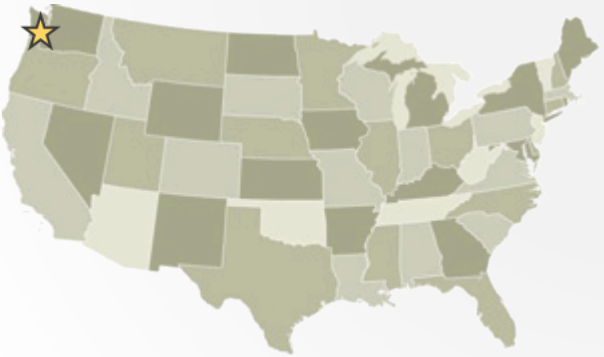


1863



1981

ROCHESTER, WA (Thurston County)



Founded in 1852.

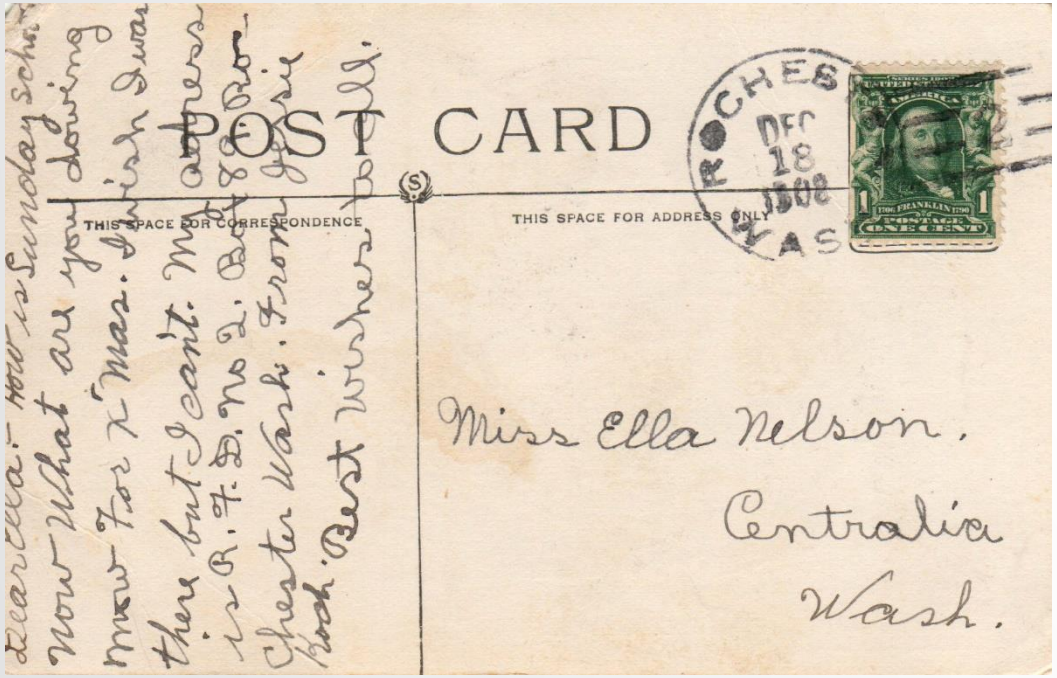
Population: 2,388

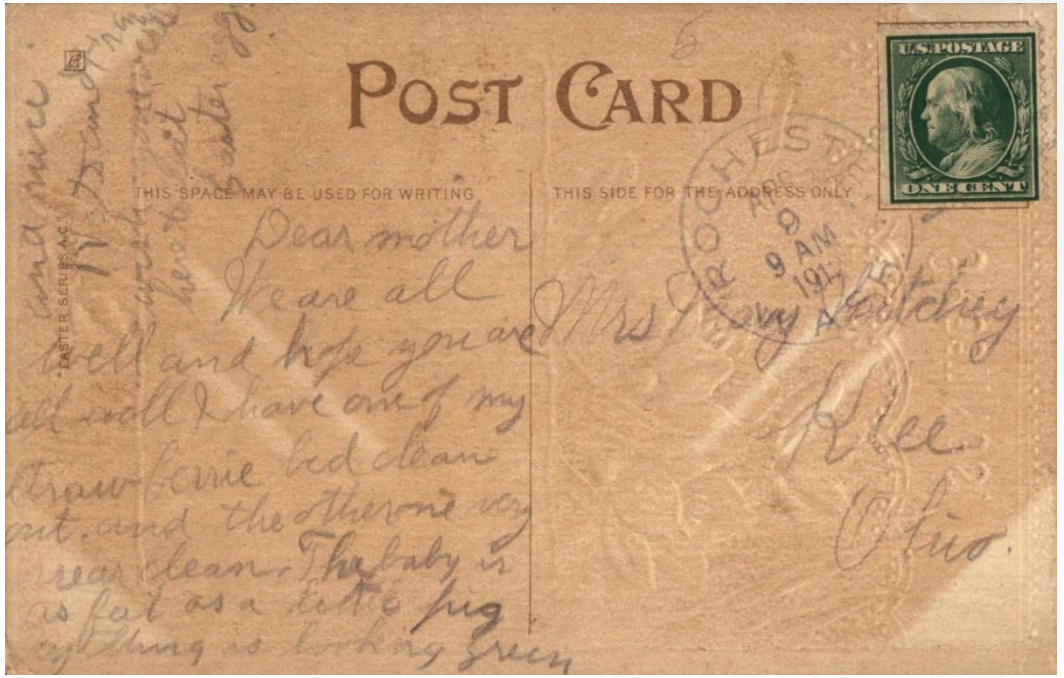
Post Office Opened: 1890-Date

Rochester was founded in 1852 by Samuel James. Robert Paton, who opened the first market in 1889, opened the first lumber mill in the early 1880s. Rochester, Washington was named after Rochester, Michigan.

http://www.rochester-wa.com

WA


POST CARD
THIS SPACE FOR CORRESPONDENCE
THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY
Miss Ella Nelson.
Centralia
Wash.


POST CARD
THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR WRITING
THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY
U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT

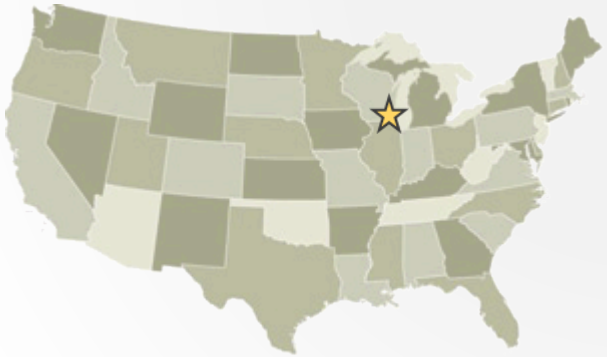
POSTAGE
ONE CENT

1908

U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT

1912

ROCHESTER, WI (Racine County)



Founded in 1835.

Population: 3,782

Post Office Opened: 1837-Date

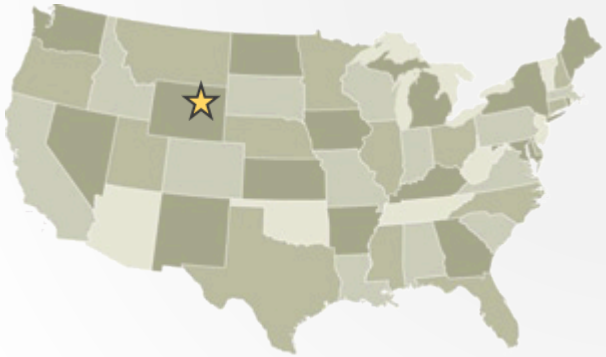
The first non-Native American settlers in Rochester were a group of five farming families from Rochester, Vermont. The old Union House hotel in the Village of Rochester was a part of the Underground Railroad.

http://rochesterwi.us

ROCHESTER
JAN
16
WIS.
9x13
Brill
Henry Race k Esq
Alloa Post Office
Columbia County
Wisconsin

1860s

ROCHESTER, WY (Johnson County)



Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1879-1882

Rochester Post Office was established as the Fort McKinney Post Office on November 26, 1876. Changed to Rochester on July 7, 1879. Elias U. Snider continued as postmaster. Changed back to Fort McKinney on May 2, 1882.

http://wyomingplaces.pbworks.com/w/page/27716220/Rochester

ROCHESTER, VIC Australia

Founded in 1855.

Population: 3,136

Post Office Opened: 1863 to Date

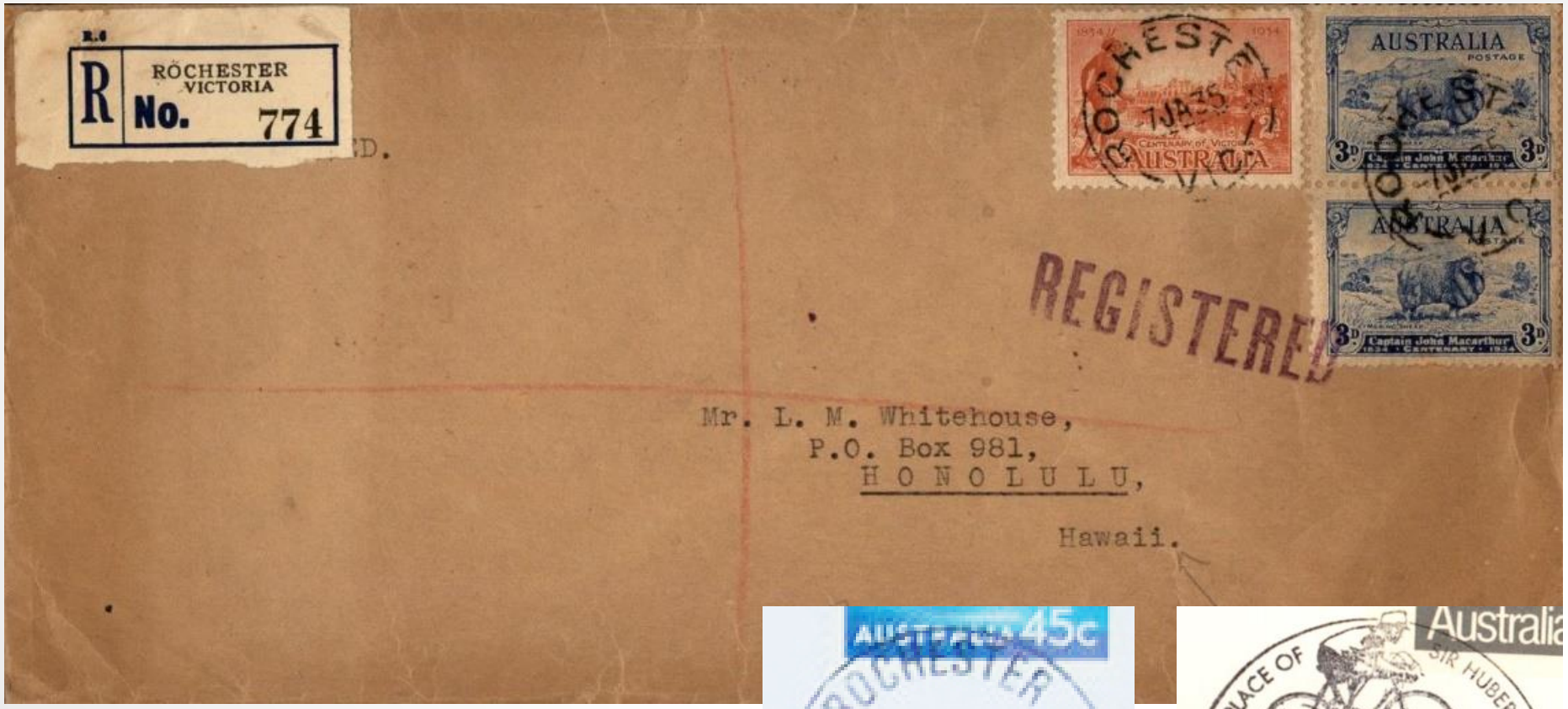
Rochester (via Rowechester) was named after Dr John Pearson Rowe, who had a hotel here before the township was gazetted in 1855.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Victoria

AUS

ROCHESTER
VIC
2

ROCHESTER
7JA35
CENTENARY of VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA
2d


R
ROCHESTER
VICTORIA
No. 774
REGISTERED
Mr. L. M. Whitehouse,
P.O. Box 981,
H O N O L U L U,
Hawaii.
AUSTRALIA
POSTAGE
3D
Captain John Macarthur
ROCHESTER
7JA35
CENTENARY of VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA

1935

AUSTRALIA 45c
ROCHESTER
26 JUL 2000
VIC 3561

Australia
BIRTHPLACE OF
SIR HUBERT OPPERMAN
- 1 JAN 2006
Rochester
VIC 3561

ROCHESTER, AB Canada

Founded in early 1900s.

Population: 79

Post Office Opened: unknown

Originally called Ideal Flats, renamed Rochester in 1912 when rail service from Edmonton to Athabasca was completed, for Herbert Rochester who was secretary to the General Manager of the Canadian National Railway from 1909-15.

http://www.athabascalandingtrail.com/rochester.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Alberta

CAN

2000

2004

ROCHESTER, KENT Great Britain

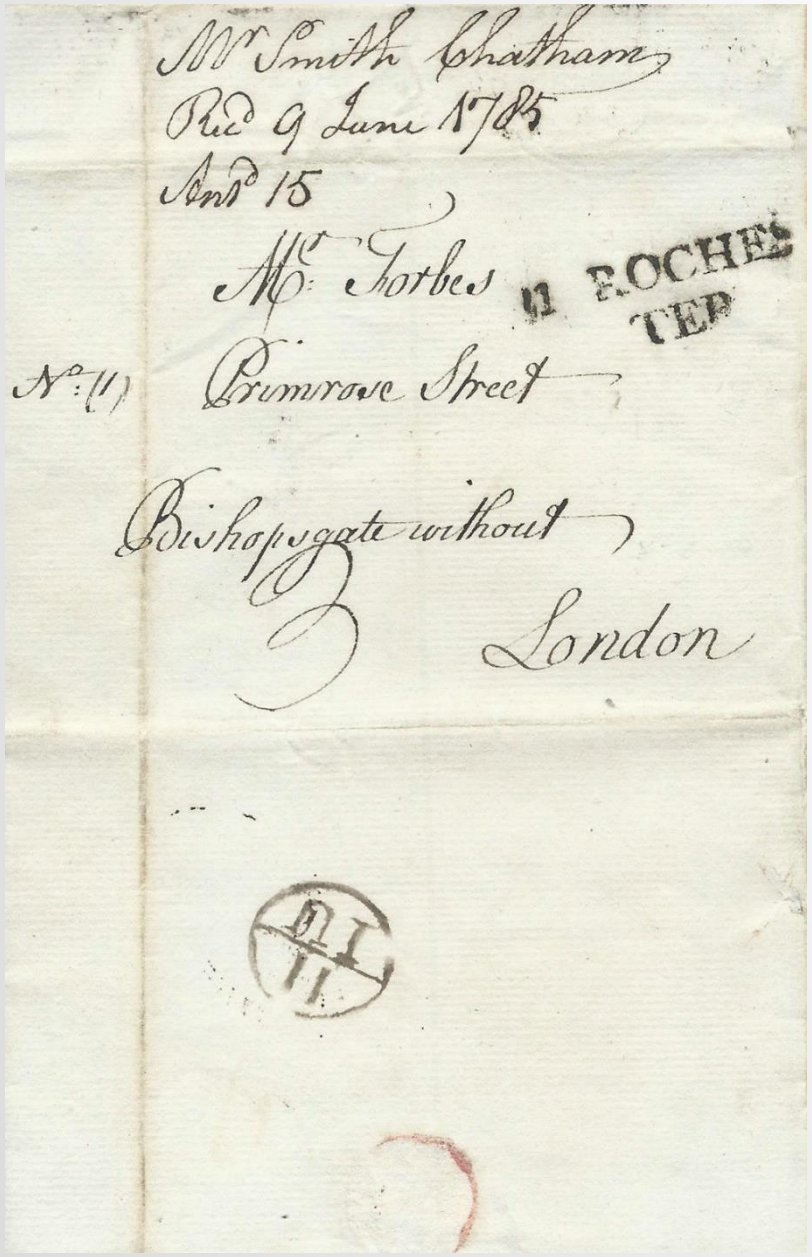
Founded in ancient times.

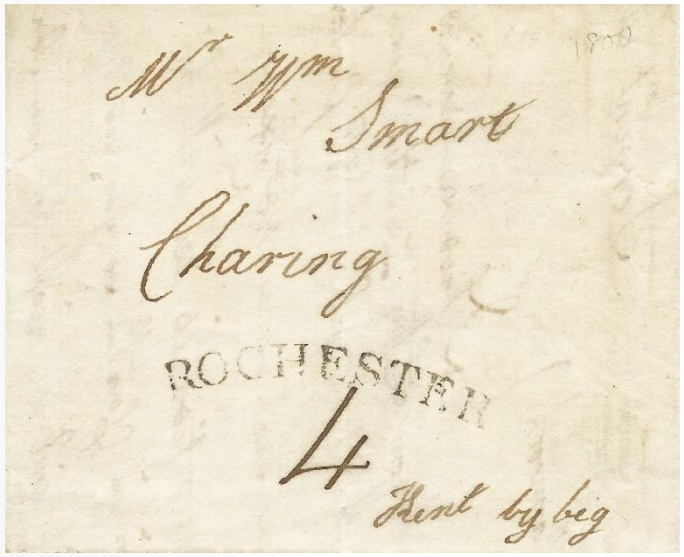
Population: 27,000

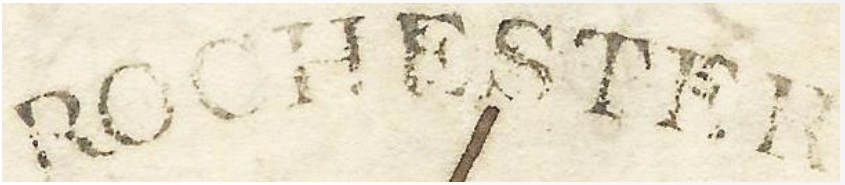
Post Office Opened: unknown

Rochester was recognized as a City from 1211 to 1998. The City of Rochester's ancient status was unique, as it had no formal council or Charter Trustees nor a Mayor, instead having the office of Admiral of the River Medway, whose incumbent acted as de facto civic leader.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Rochester,_Kent





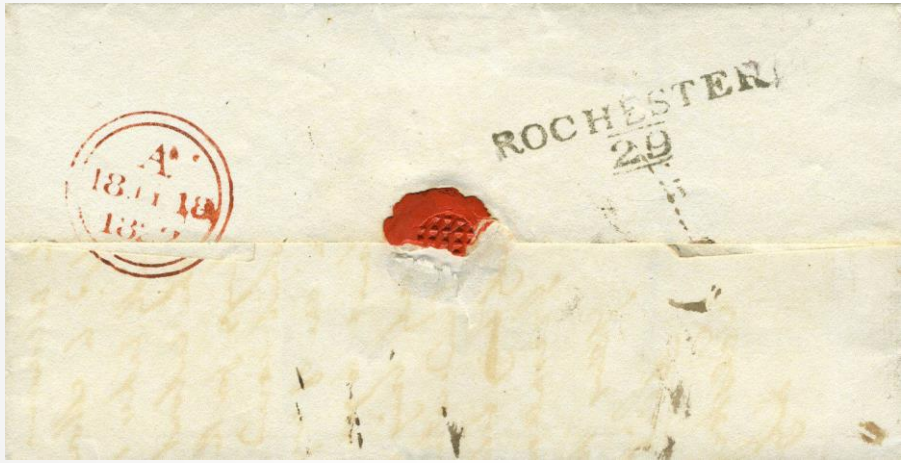


1800 arched mark

1785 Broken
31 mile mark

1800 straight mark

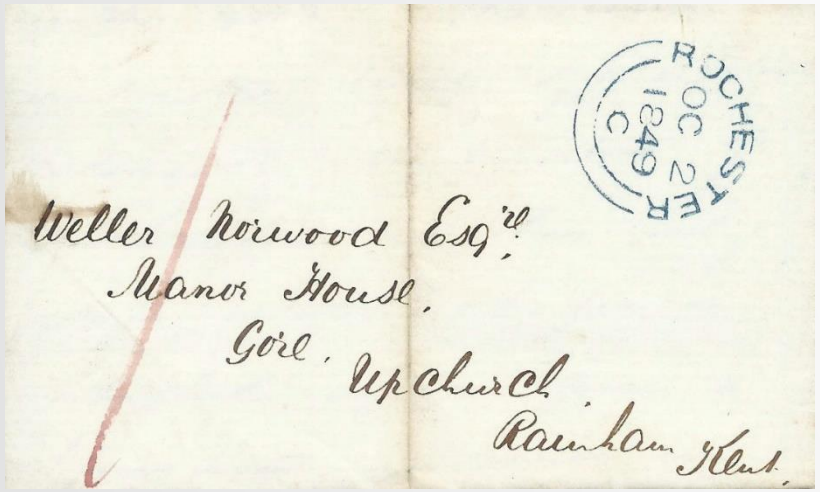
1811 ship letter mark on infected letter from Malta



1822 29 mile mark

1842

GB



1849

1893

1906

ROCHESTER

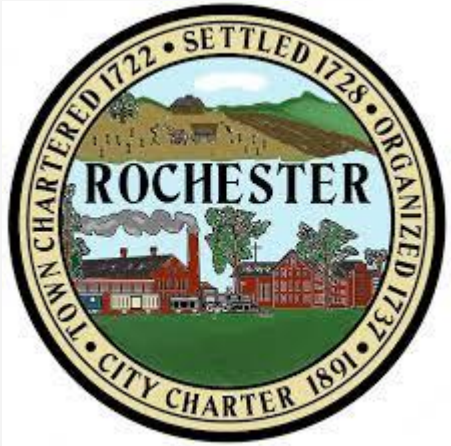
Zimbabwe

Founded in ?

Population: ?

Post Office Opened: unknown

http://travelingluck.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Zimbabwe+%28general%29/_882388_Rochester.html



I hope you've enjoyed this brief look at Rochester in geography and philately. This is a never ending project with ongoing improvements!